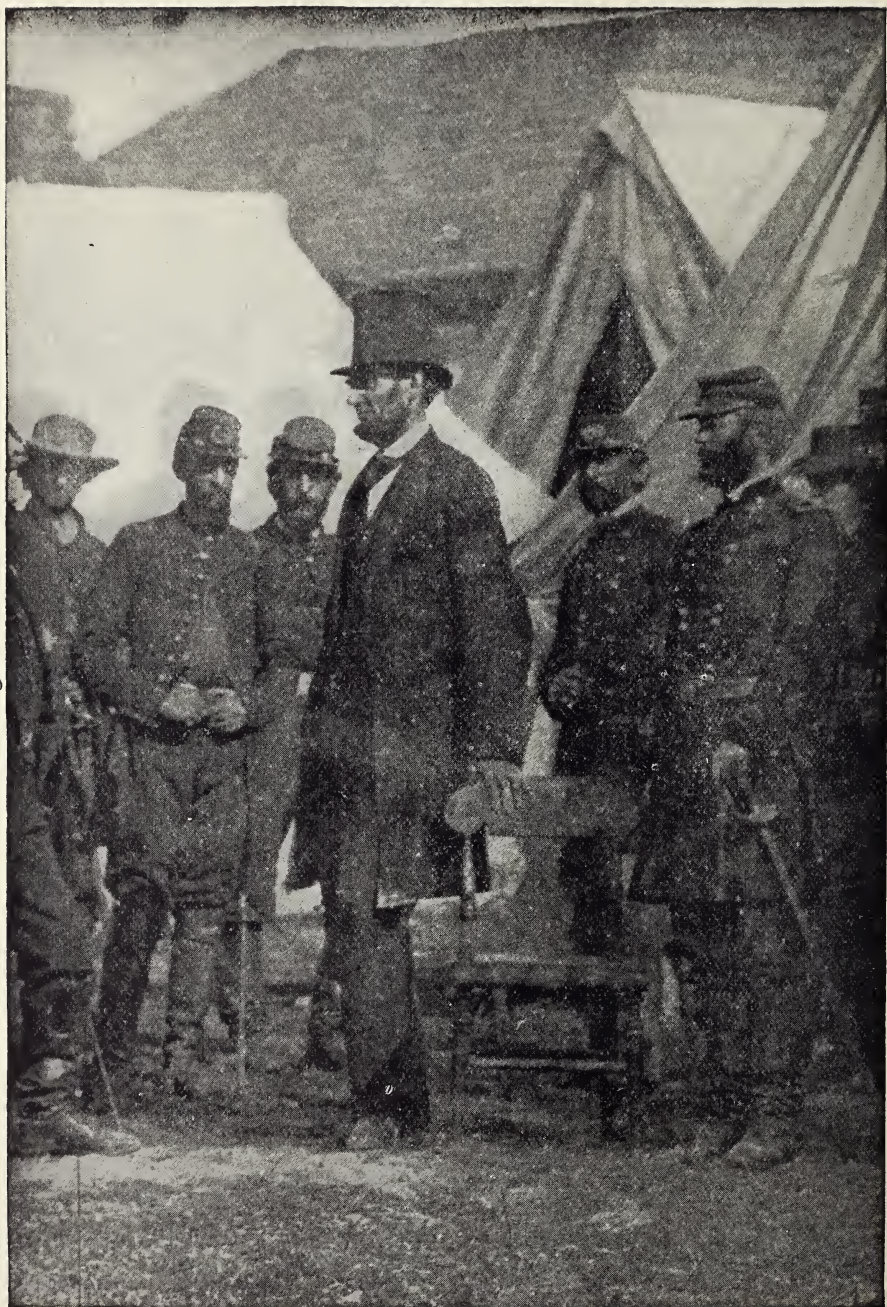


Planets in their courses have marked february — of few days — as the birth-month of two great Americans. A century ago a cradleless infant was born in a log cabin in Kentucky: the child of a lowly frontiersman has taken rank with the high-born Washington.

Lincoln's birthday is now in the thoughts and minds of dwellers in every farm, village, town and city throughout the republic. The day will be observed with exercises in schools, and with municipal and social observances notable and numerous. Singularly vivid in the retrospect of over forty-three years are the memories of Lincoln in Washington, where he bore for his people, and for millions more, burdens such as few men have borne; gained such honor and love as still fewer have received from the hearts of the people, and died a martyr's death, tragic in all its phases as the most terrible of the masterpieces of Greek tragedy, to be mourned by friend and foe and all humanity, his great soul enshrined in the hearts of mankind forever.

J. M. C.





PRESIDENT LINCOLN ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF ANTIETAM

Taken shortly after the great battle. The photograph shows the great height of Lincoln compared with the stalwart officers and men surrounding him

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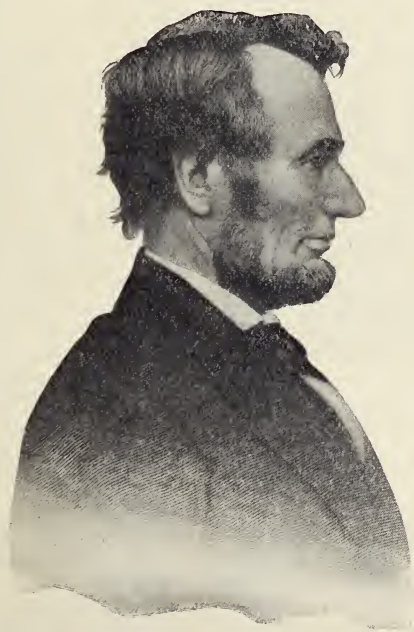


Affairs at Washington *By Joe Mitchell Chapple*

BY one act of Congress, completed in a few moments, the kinship of the world was proclaimed, and the ideals of Abraham Lincoln glorified and perpetuated by the Union he saved.

It was most appropriate that the Congress of the United States should generously vote \$800,000 for the relief of the sufferers in the Italian earthquake, at a time when preparations were being made for the observance of the centenary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln—a man who always responded gladly to an appeal for help, and who regarded necessity as sufficient reason for prompt assistance, regardless of precedent and tradition. What act of Congress could more strongly emphasize the great-heartedness of Lincoln than this generous response to suffering Italy, almost a half-century after he had passed away! The act may have reached beyond constitutional limits, but it recognized Lincoln's ideal of the kinship of the human race. A thrill went through the house, when

in regular routine the vote announced that the young republic of the West had hastened so generously to the relief of one of the ancient nations of the East, in her dark day of calamity and sorrow.



Abraham Lincoln

It was equally appropriate that the American fleet, engirdling the globe, should pause in its gala voyage and dispatch ships to the aid of stricken Sicily. Instead of going grimly into battle to destroy life, now, in the birth month of one of the world's great commanders of men, the American navy has hastened to offer assistance to those in distress amid the awful devastation of a volcano's sudden overwhelming wrath. This broad interpretation of soldiers' and sailors' duty, taking it for granted that before all other obligations comes the rendering of assistance where needed and the saving of life rather than its destruction, is peculiarly characteristic of the patriot whose birth we celebrate on

February twelfth—a day each year will make more memorable as passing time affords a truer perception of Lincoln's greatness.

IN the Washington of today are many aged men in active life who saw the living Lincoln during the trying and crucial days of the republic, and their memories give us many a jewel to vitalize and immortalize the times of Lincoln and bring him even nearer to our hearts than the great Washington, who stands firmly on his pedestal, a classic, admired through the haze of history. Associated with Lincoln is a humanness and great-heartedness that expresses the nation's ideal of itself exemplified in a great man beloved of the people. How vividly his form

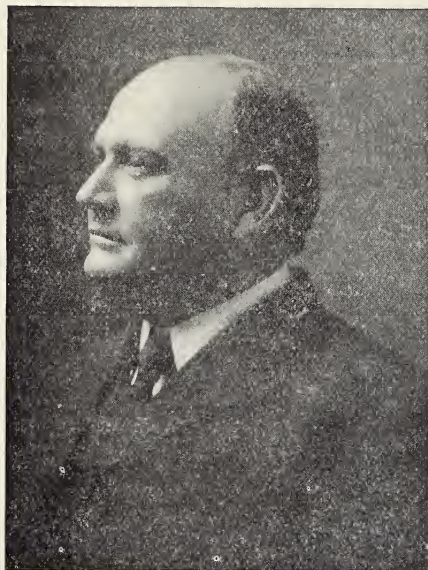


Photo by Clinedinst, Washington

REPRESENTATIVE HENRY D. CLAYTON
From Alabama

seemed to move before me when I heard from the lips of one who was a youth in those stirring times, a description of Lincoln as he used to walk, stooped and saddened, from the White House to the Treasury Department during the darkest days of the war, to obtain reports from the front. With a shawl over his thin shoulders, and his silk hat set far back on his head, he would bend over the telegrapher's desk with great eagerness, his face reflecting the admiration, pity and sorrow which he felt as he heard the little instruments steadily click off the news from the front—a deed of rare heroism which gained the day, or the sacrifice of thousands

of lives for the preservation of the Union.

How tenderly are told the stories of Lincoln's charity and tenderness, as, listening day after day to harrowing details, he looked with sympathy into the faces of the constant throng of visitors at the White House, some bringing curses and some cheer; how he went out on the Avenue to select toys for the Washington little ones, finding a gleam of sunshine in creating childish happiness even amid his own Titanic cares and the dark clouds of Union reverses. The wonder is that he escaped death at that time, for treason was barely concealed even at the national capital, and he went from place to place unattended, or galloped awkwardly to the front to secure news of the conflict. He visited the camps and bivouacs—the scenes which inspired Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic"—and the hospitals, cemeteries and forts surrounding Washington, when every day was vibrant with the intense passions and militant factions of that tremendous crisis. These emotional days are very real as one goes about Washington and looks upon the places associated with Lincoln—sites which must ever be hallowed by his memory. The rooms in the White House in which he remained almost a solitary prisoner are revered as a shrine today; the pens and desks, the boots, hat and old shawl—any article he is known to have used—are all treasured mementoes. Long ago sneers at the rough, ungainly form have given place to plaudits, and the statesman, in discussing the anniversary of Lincoln's birth, calls to mind how he held together a Cabinet unchanged longer than any other president, sacrificing his own personal wishes for the welfare of the Union. Recollections of Lincoln seem to bring him closer and closer to the hearts of the people; while other great men soar away to find them place on a pedestal in passionless greatness.

* * *

IT must be gratifying to Postmaster General George von L. Meyer to know that the experiments made with postal savings departments in the Philippines have been successful. The deposits more than doubled in 1908 and the success of the project is now assured. The Philippine experiments will, doubtless, overcome some of the conservative opposition in this country. This

information is clearly given in a report made by Secretary of War Wright, who also called attention to the fact that the revenues for 1908 had increased nearly \$250,000, now reaching a total of \$17,000,000.

The railway construction in Cuba and Panama now aggregates nearly 1,000 miles.

The secretary of war reports that, in the event of war with any first-class power, we should need at least 350,000 more men. As the regular army is limited to 100,000 men, 250,000 troops would have to be drawn from the organized militia. He made an effective plea for a better militia service.

In the report, additional officers for the regular army are asked for; this is essential, for, of 137 companies of coast artillery, only thirteen have the full complement of officers. The work at Panama has made serious inroads on the personnel of the regular army.

In times of peace the absorbing topic in the War Department has been appropriations for rivers and harbors and other public works. It is often difficult to decide what matters properly come under the jurisdiction of the War Department or of the Department of Commerce and Labor, for in the early days, before the Department of Commerce and Labor was organized, the War Department, curiously enough, was concerned with labor problems, and had a general supervision of matters pertaining to industrial activities in peace, as well as fortifications and expenditures in time of war.

* * *

THERE is hardly a topic under the sun on which information may not be obtained at the Capital. While waiting for a Cabinet official with whom I had an appointment, I chanced upon a man just returned from China. In the course of our conversation the price of eggs and the difficulty of keeping them fresh was discussed. I lamented that it was almost impossible to obtain a new-laid egg. He told how, when traveling in China, the American consul called his attention to the fact that the Chinese had centuries ago solved this problem in a more effective way than has ever been done by modern cold storage warehouse systems. It happened that he had had no opportunity to test the Chinese method until he was leaving the country, when he was presented with fresh-laid eggs incased in spherical mud

pies. He brought home these packages along with other souvenirs, and kept them until "fresh" eggs soared to eighty cents a dozen; then he opened his mud pies, and imagine his surprise to find the eggs in first-class condition.

"Later," he said, "I tried the experiment myself: buried my eggs deep in mud and formed it into cakes around them, allowing 'the pie' to dry out. The result was the same—when they were opened they were perfectly fresh."

This summer he laid in a good supply, and is happy in the anticipation of eggs for his breakfast as good as those fresh from the hennery, taken from the nest while her "henship" still cackles.

This valuable information has been brought to the attention of the Agricultural Department, and no doubt a bulletin will be sent out suggesting to farmers the advisability of using this method of storage until such time as the price per dozen for "strictly fresh" eggs rises dollarwards.

* * *

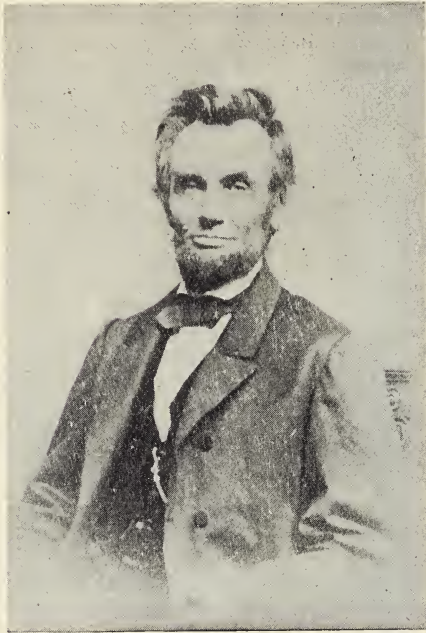
AFTER a long day alone in the great city of New York, especially if it happens to be Sunday evening, what a wave of loneliness sweeps over the stranger crossing the ferry, as he sits or stands amid the groups of happy families, returning from their weekly holiday in the woods. He envies the sturdy workman and his buxom wife and happy children, with their arms full of the berries and colored leaves that the little people love to gather in the fall of the year. What a gloomy time it is for the traveler, just coming from a wearisome trip, as he rushes through New York making engagements for the morrow; it is borne in upon him with unpleasant force that he is indeed far from his loved ones, who are at home spending a happy day together, while *he* takes up his knapsack as the ferry slip cogs clatter and the throng scatters.

* * *

AT the mention of the word statistics most of us at once think of a bare, severe, dusty room covered with cobwebs, with an outlook far from exhilarating; yet, without doubt, the most fascinating work of any bureau is that done in the Department of Statistics by O. P. Austin, a veteran in the service. He has an enthusiasm for figures, and

when he talks conveys the idea that the world and all that is therein can be quite easily brought within the scope of his pencil and paper and long rows of figures.

A new map has been issued by his department, which shows all the railways in the civilized world and also indicates the exact distance between the different places. The evolution and changes that have taken place are shown and the work of the Panama Canal is indicated, presenting the surprising fact



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Taken direct from a photograph of war times, considered by many to be the best likeness ever made of him with a camera

that the distance between Europe and South America is actually less than between that country and the United States.

Mr. Austin's lectures and his work as a statistician have given him world-wide fame. He is a widely-traveled man, having made a tour of the world, and his lectures are full of thrilling interest. A man who can talk statistics for three-quarters of an hour and hold, without a break, the entire interest of his audience, is certainly unique.

In the Department of Commerce and Labor there is one hopper through which statistics go for collaboration with this bureau. This

is where the world's geography is being changed day by day. This quiet man, with iron-gray hair and soft dark eyes, evidently loves his work and has all the enthusiasm of a school-master in imparting information to those who desire it.

* * *

In the front room of the Department of Commerce and Labor, Secretary Straus sits at a large flat-topped desk barricaded with papers and reports, with accumulated details, classed and indexed, at hand, with which to inaugurate new plans or expediate the already numerous and varied operations of his department. No member of the Cabinet has ever entered more enthusiastically into his work than Secretary Straus; he has given all that assiduous care to his governmental undertakings which he once bestowed on his own private business.

The functions of the department are administered through twelve different bureaus and divisions. As has been well said in the Secretary's report, it comes into closer touch with human and economic interests in the country than the work of any other department. At set periods the Secretary has a conference with the chiefs of the various bureaus, keeping in personal touch with them all and making the work of the department still more like the conduct of some great business establishment.

Secretary Straus is keenly analytical, and has reached the last analysis in his study and investigation of naturalization and immigration problems. His reports show some startling facts which are also hinted at in his article, as, for instance, the present percentage of foreign-born population, which will be a surprise to many readers. Secretary Straus is a man of broad, liberal ideas, conducting his department in a comprehensive and effective manner, and his article on the Department of Commerce and Labor will be eagerly read.

No other department of our government resembles this one, or so exemplifies the national ideal of developing business and the exploitation of natural products, in short, the multiplication of existing resources to meet the increasing demands of a growing nation; this department is intended for the benefit of all the people, and every citizen should keep in touch with it so as not to lose sight of the splendid work it is doing.